DECLASSIFIED

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 1954

Answered Foster's letter this morning in these terms:

"Dear Foster:

"I greatly appreciate your letter of August 31. The neurotic decision of the French Parliament on EDC was, it seems to me, a major tragedy for the true interests of the West, and especially for those of France. Had Mendès boldly exercised the influence of his office, and of his own personal popularity, in favor of the project the tale would have been different.

"Obviously, there is no benefit in bewailing what might have been. I must confess that the thought of a strong Germany, with a general staff and a national army, oscillating between East and West, fills me with alarm. Under the leadership of Adenauer, conscious, as few German statesmen in the past hundred years have been, of the dangerous temptations offered to his country by its geographical location and the essentially warlike philosophy of its people, the Federal Republic can still be, at least temporarily, oriented to the West. That should be our endeavor, as well as not to abandon permanently the hope of some day 'making Europe'.

"As to my personal plans, I should like, if agreeable to the President and yourself, to return to private life not later than Christmas. No one could have had a more consistent and enlightened direction than I have received in this particular work, and I am most grateful for it.

"If I may make the suggestion, I think it would be advisable, when conferences take place this year on the subject of German sovereignty and rearmament, for me to be one of the members of the United States delegation. My immediate resignation, or the dissolution of this small mission, might, I believe, be given undesirable interpretations.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CAC DATE 7-1-81
XDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

"Again, I am grateful to you for your suggestion that I might later assume some relationship to you in the Department. This, I must frankly say, in spite of the value I would attach to such an association and my appreciation of your thought, would not in principle appeal to me. Such an attitude is entirely disconnected from any political consideration, nor have I made any engagements of any kind for the future. From past experience, I simply do not feel I have the aptitudes or the temperament to be useful or contented in Government work in Washington.

"With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

David Bruce."

Talked to Jim Conant on the phone. Foster will probably go to Bonn Thursday to see the Chancellor, to London Friday to visit Eden, and home Friday night. This is the first I have heard of the project.

André de Staercke called on me and described the Eden conversations at Brussels. He profoundly distrusts Mendès.

I went over to the Embassy to see Senator Wiley and Marcy, of the Foreign Relations staff. Wiley is for making the French Parliament face up to its responsibilities by voting for or against German admission to NATO. He thinks a rapid decision as to Germany's future is essential -- otherwise the drift will sweep it Russiawards.

Ted Achilles lunched with me, and we talked of how NATO might be strengthened.

Foster has asked for Monnet's views on future courses of action. Monnet's ideas have not yet crystallized -- he is for keeping the way still open for an EDC arrangement, and is bitterly opposed to the re-creation of a German national army.

DECLASSIFIED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
□or XDS□EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

Ed Martin has just returned from Washington. He brought me a "think" paper from the Department on which comments of Conant, Hughes and myself are desired. I studied it tonight. It, amongst other things, reaffirms the U.S. position in support of European unity.

Tommy came to the house, and we wrestled with the German problem.

I settled my thoughts tonight by reading half the essays of Stevenson in Virginibus Puerisque.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Cee DATE 7-1-81
☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED